

A PROCLAMATION

Anent Recruits, Levies, Deserters and Passes.



WILLIAM by the Grace of God, King of Great-Britain, France and Ireland,
Defender of the Faith, To

Machers of Our Privy Council, Messengers at Arms, Our
Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and severally, specially Constitute; Greet-
ing, Forasmuch as, It is requisite and necessary, That during this present War,
which so much concerns the Defence and Security of the Protestant Religion, and of Our
Kingdoms, Rules and Orders be set down for Recruits, Levies and Deserters, whereby fre-
quent Disorders and Oppressions may be prevented, and unfit men may not be Engaged, and
none may be Troubled upon the head of Desertion, but such as are truly Deserters: There-
fore, We with Advice of the Lords of Our Privy Council, Conform to the Thirty third
Act Fifth Session of this Our Current Parliament, Entituled *Act for the Levies*: Do Hereby
Appoint and Ordain, that no Officer, either at Home or from Abroad, offer to Take or,
or Press any Free Leidge to be a Souldier, unless the Man be Taken on by Agreement, owned
by him in presence of the Judge of the Bounds. And if any Officer shall Contraveen this
Order, and Press or Compel any Man contrair to the Rule hereby Established, that it shall be
reckoned Oppression, and the Transgressor punished by the Fyne of a Months Pay, and fur-
ther by Imprisonment, or Breaking and Casheering, as the saids Lords of Our Privy Council
shall think fit. And further, We with Advice foresaid, Do strictly Prohibit and Discharge
all Our Officers which have come for Recruits from *Flanders*, to Seize upon any persons as
Deserters, but such as have Deserted from Our Scots Regiments in *Flanders* since they were
there, and none others: And allows the Officers of Our Forces in this Our ancient Kingdom,
to Seize upon none upon the head of Desertion, but such as have Deserted from one or o-
ther of the saids Regiments, of which they are at present Officers: And Discharge any per-
son to be Seized upon, on pretence of Desertion before our Accession to the Crown. And
for preventing any Mistake anent Passes, given to such as have been Souldiers: We with
Adviceforesaid, Do herby Appoint and Ordain, That no Pass be sustained for any Souldier
from Our Forces in *Flanders*, or out of this Kingdom, unless the same be Subscribed at least
by the Collonel of the Regiment, to which he belonged. And that no Pass be sustained for
any of the Souldiers of the standing Regiments of this Kingdom, unless the same be Subscri-
bed by the Collonel of the Regiment, or by one of the Field Officers, Commander of the
Regiment for the time, to which he belonged; and Declares, that the Passes Signed in man-
nerforesaid, shall free the persons in whose favours they are granted. And further, We
with Adviceforesaid, Do hereby Ratify and Revive, all former Acts and Proclamations, made
anent Recruits, Levies, or Deserters, except in so far, as the samen are hereby Innovat-
or Altered. Our Will is Herefore, and we Charge you strictly, and Command, That in
Continent thir Our Letters seen, ye pass to the Mercat-Cross of *Edinburgh*, and remanent
Mercat-Crosses of the Head-Burghs of the several Shires and Stewartries within this Our
Kingdom, and There in Our Name and Authority, by open Proclamation, make Intima-
tation, that none may pretend ignorance. And Ordains Our Sollicitor to Transmit
Copies hereof, to the Sheriffs of the severall Shires of this Kingdom, to be sent
by them, to the Ministers of the severall Paroches within their respective Shires: and Ap-
points the Ministers of the Paroches, to cause Intimat these Proclamations in their Paroch
Churches where they are Ministers, immediatly at the Dissolution of the Congregation, and
that either from the Pulpit, or at the Church-Doors. And Ordains these Prents to be
Printed and Published.

Given under Our Signet at Edinburgh, the Thirteenth day of February, and of Our Reign the
Seventh year, 1696.

P. Actum Dominorum Secreti Concilii.
D. A. MONCREIFF Cls. Sti. Consilii.

GOD Save the King.

Edinburgh, Printed by the Heirs and Successors of Andrew Anderson, Printer to the Kings
Most Excellent Majestie, 1696.

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